

STORM DRAINAGE

Carrying off rainwater presents its greatest problems in the built-up areas of cities, where pavements and rooftops prevent the absorption of the water into the soil, while the streets and sidewalks must be kept free of "rivers". In Sanford, as in other cities, underground storm sewers are installed to cope with this problem. The data recording the location, size, and condition of Sanford's storm sewers have not been compiled, but such information is expected to be organized in the near future. These facts, plus a study of current and expected drainage problem areas, will form the basis for improving the storm sewer system and keeping it in step with city growth.

Rainwater not only requires storm sewers and major drainage ways, but must be considered in every land improvement project, public or private. Evidence of this can be seen throughout the community. Builders landscape grounds and grade drive-ways and sidewalks so that water runs into the street and not into the basement or onto neighboring property; roof drains are installed which are connected either to the storm sewer system or into the street. These private methods of getting rid of rainfall leave the disposal of water falling on both private land and public streets in the hands of the City. Ignoring the problem would result in the development of gullies curving up either side of the street and clogging any storm sewers with mud and sand. To prevent this the City has installed curb and gutters in the streets, and linked them with the major drainage system.

When subdivisions are new and contain only a few homes, the acres of vacant land soaking up the rainfall make storm drainage seem insignificant, but as the remaining lots are sold off and homes constructed, the additional water drainage into the streets becomes a major problem. Eventually curb and gutter must be installed if it was not installed originally, and someone must pay the bill. The fact that:

1. the storm drainage problem is largely created by land development, and
2. the value of property is increased when it is served by curb and gutter provides a basis for requiring that land developers install these improvements at their own expense. (This provision is a common inclusion in Land Subdivision Regulations.)